

THE  
SPECTACULAR  
SPIDERMAN

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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

# PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN



ENTER: LIGHTMASTER!



While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the insect's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**

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PLOT

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HIS LITHE FIGURE IS SOME THREE HUNDRED FEET IN THE AIR, ARCING GRACEFULLY BETWEEN BUILDINGS ON THIN STRANDS OF WEBBING. HE IS NO STRANGER TO GRIEF AND HARD TIMES, AND, TODAY HAS HELD MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF FRUSTRATIONS-- BUT FOR THIS MOMENT, HE IS LOST IN SHEER EXHILARATION-- A MAN IN HIS ELEMENT!

MAN, I KNOW  
THIS FEELING  
CAN'T LAST--

-- BUT I  
WOULDN'T  
TRADE IT FOR  
A TRUCKLOAD  
OF DYNAMITE!

... AND THERE WAS  
LIGHTMASTER!

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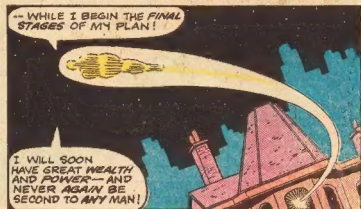
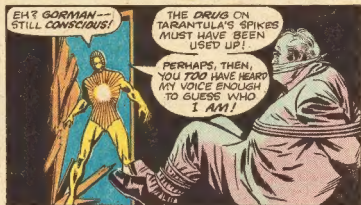
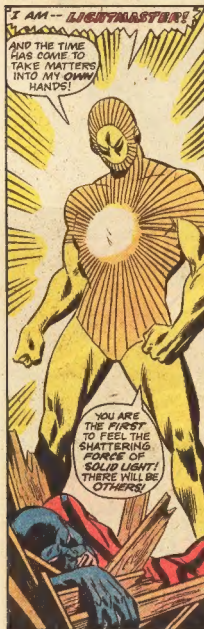
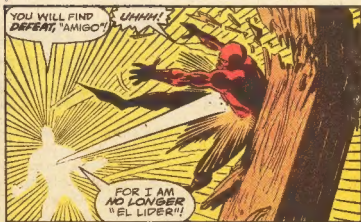
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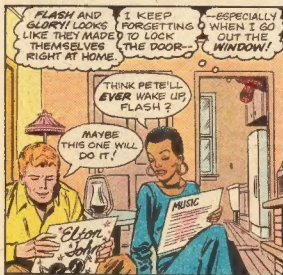












FLASH! GLORY! I THOUGHT I WAS DREAMING I WAS HEARING MUSIC! HOW LONG HAVE YOU TWO BEEN HERE?



ALMOST HALF AN HOUR! WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING!

HI, PETE! I JUST DROPPED BY! THERE WAS NO ANSWER AT YOUR DOOR, NATCH-- THERE ALMOST NEVER IS --



-- BUT YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR AND I STARTED CHATTING AND DECIDED TO SIT ON YOUR FLOOR AND PLAY RECORDS TILL YOU SHOWED YOUR FACE!

TO MAKE UP FOR THE WEAR 'N TEAR, HOW 'BOUT I TAKE US ALL TO DINNER?



IT SUDDENLY OCCURS TO ME I HAVEN'T EATEN ALL DAY! NO WONDER I'M SO BURNT OUT!

UH, SURE! JUST LET ME GET DRESSED!

GREAT!



SOON...

I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS PLACE! BEEN MEANING TO TRY IT!

YEAH, I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE, BUT I HEAR THE FOOD'S TERRIFIC!

I'M SO HUNGRY ANY FOOD WOULD BE TERRIFIC!



I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, GLORY! SINCE IT'S ON FLASH I'M CONSIDERING ORDERING TWO OF EVERYTHING!

TABLE FOR THREE, PLEASE, MISS, AND -- UH --



THAT... WAITRESS!

NO... IT CAN'T BE WHO... I THINK...



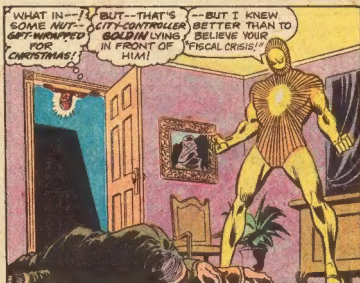
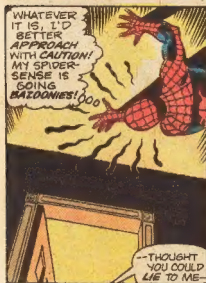
SHA SHAN! IT IS YOU!

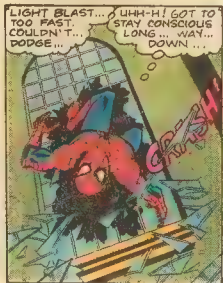
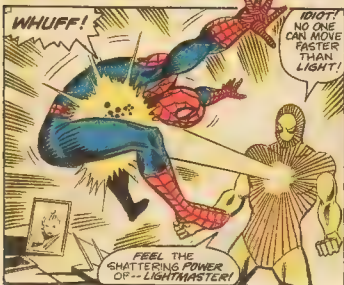
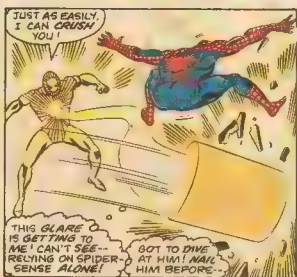
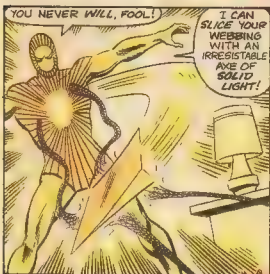
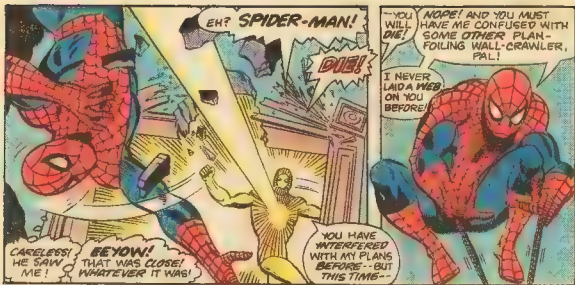
OH-H! FLASH!



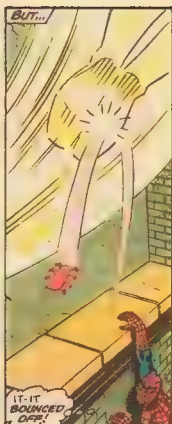












WHAT DOES THE **INCREDIBLE**  
**HULK** SAY ABOUT

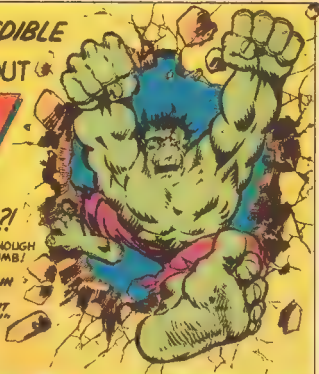
**CRAZY**

THE MAGAZINE THAT  
DARES TO BE **DUMB**?!

FRANKLY, WE'VE NEVER GOTTEN CLOSE ENOUGH  
TO FIND OUT. EVEN WE'RE NOT THAT DUMB!

BUT IF WE DID GET CLOSE, WE'RE CERTAIN  
THE GREAT GREEN GREMLIN WOULD  
PROBABLY SAY: "HULK THINK FAR-OUT  
FUNNIES IN CRAZY ARE SMASHING!"

AND IF YOU **DOUBT** HE'D SAY THAT...  
THEN YOU GET CLOSE TO HIM!



**CRAZY**...THE NEW BREAKTHROUGH HUMOR BOOK!

THE MOST ASTONISHINGLY OFFBEAT IDEA OF ALL FROM  
YE OLDE HOUSE OF IDEAS!

WHAT IF  
**SPIDER-MAN**

JOINED THE  
**Fantastic Four**

BACK IN SPIDER-MAN #1?

AND THAT'S JUST THE **FIRST**  
OF THE WAY-OUT EPICS WE'LL  
BE TOSSING AT YOU IN MARVEL'S  
NEWEST AND GREATEST BIMONTHLY  
50¢ GIANT!

**THE HULK--CAPTAIN AMERICA--**  
**CONAN--THOR--**YOU'LL SEE THEM  
**ALL**, IN THE ADVENTURES YOU SWORE  
**COULD NEVER HAPPEN** IN EACH  
AND EVERY ISSUE OF...

**WHAT IF...?**



# PETER PARKER'S PAD

56 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. NYC. 10022

Dear Friends,

Wow! That's all I have to say about PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN! The art was great! The inking was super! The story was fantastic! And the mistake was *stupid!*

What mistake? Well, on page two, panel 8, we see Spidey dropping his beloved camera. And then, on page 10, he says "My webbing snapped, my camera's broken." I don't know what it looked like to you, but to me it looked as if he just plain dropped the camera. I never saw him stick any webbing to it.

Aren't you guys lucky to have such sharp readers?

Keith Rippey  
1902 Calvert St.  
Washington, DC 20009

Indeed, Keith! Sharp readers keep the bashful Bullpen continually on their collective toes. However, we think you're a little off base this time. For although Spidey was startled enough to let go of his camera in that first-mentioned panel, his rollickin' reflexes were certainly quick enough to grab it, and then web it to the building before swinging down two panels later. Unfortunately, in his haste the Web-slinger neglected to sufficiently stick his camera to the wall, and...well, the rest you know. All clear, Mr. Rippey?

Dear Assorted Spider-people,

During the years of my comics reading, I have always noted and been thankful for the humanity and relevance of Marvel's heroes, especially Spider-Man. But, in all those years, I have never seen a twinge of greed over all of the tons of recovered loot. Now you'll probably say, "That's because he's a hero, dummy!" However, I prefer to think of him as a human being first and a hero second.

Now I realize Spidey would never take the goodies for himself, but under certain conditions, the possibility of this happening could become reality. Think back to when Peter Parker was but the average teenager. Then he contracted his spider-powers and used them for the good of his wallet. Later, Uncle Ben died as an indirect result of Peter not stopping a burglar when he had the chance. And that, gentlemen, is one of the conditions I'm talking about.

Suppose that Aunt May caught some sort of disease that could prove fatal. There is a chance of her surviving *only* if she has some special treatment. The problem is that Peter could never hope to afford it. So the next time he battles one of the bad guys, if there's any money involved, he just picks it up and takes it home for Aunt May. Certainly, he could feel justified, since it could possibly save a life. You could also use the "higher justice" schtick and really produce some thought-provoking stuff (you always do).

Of course, this is only a vague suggestion, but I'm sure you talented folks could flesh it out. I hope the Comics Code would accept it (perish the thought, a hero should act human).

Well whaddya think, fellas?

Matt Moyer  
2388 Heiman Ave.  
South Bend, IN 46637

Hmmm. An interesting idea, Matthew, but it's a situation that has turned up a time or two in the past. And on those occasions Spidey considered taking a buck or two...considered it and decided against it! So you see, it's really not a viable storyline when the character in question is Peter Parker. Thanks for thinking of us, though!

People:

I'm against it. The idea of publishing a third monthly comic book devoted to the adventures of Spider-Man is a bad one. It's bad for the characters, bad for Marvel, and bad for comics. There is such a thing as overworking a character, and in starting PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER MAN, I'm afraid you have crossed the line and done just that. Milking Spider-Man's well deserved popularity is a mistake that will

ultimately result in decreasing his popularity—and, more importantly, his quality—through over-exposure and over-extension. The fact that there are three mega chronicles of Spidey's career at once cannot help but result in countless paradoxes and time-strains that will do a great deal of damage to his continuity and his believability.

I don't know how long PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER MAN will last, but I suspect it won't be long. I hope you won't find it offensive when I admit that I hope that will be the case.

Michael P. Capurse  
3321 St. Paul Blvd.  
Rochester, NY 14617

Everyone to their own opinion, Mike. That's what makes life—and the funny-book biz—interesting.

We have to disagree with you, though. And it looks like most of the rest of Marveldom Assembled does, also.

But don't get too worried about continuity. Just last week, Lively Len Wein got together with Archie Goodwin—who takes over the writing reins of PETER PARKER next issue—and Chris Claremont—MARVEL TEAM UP's new scribe—to hash out Spidey's life for the next several months. So, if it makes you feel better, don't think of Spidey as having three monthly books. Think of him as having one book that comes out three times a month!



Dear Web heads,

Good deal! I found PETER PARKER #1 both intriguing and amazing. Congratulations are due on both the story and those magnificent pictures. And I like the way the first issue tied in with MARVEL TEAM UP #52.

After all, everyone has a personal life. And fortunately Spider-Man's is intriguing enough to fill a monthly mag.

'Nuff said!

Nathan Izary  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Dear Guys,

Issue #1 of SPECTACULAR SPIDER MAN was great—even if the Tarantula's men weren't in costume on the cover. Other than that...keep up the good work!

Oh! One more thing, couldn't you have Parker change a bit with the times. Like maybe extend his hair a little over his ears?

Mike Miller  
2221 Whistler Way  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

We asked him about that, Mike, but he claimed that it tickles too much. And besides, have you ever tried cramming a bunch of hair under a tight fitting mask?



AFTER A SOMEWHAT PAINFUL JOURNEY HOME AND A RESTLESS NIGHT, THE MORNING FINDS PETER PARKER IN THE OFFICE OF JOE ROBERTSON...



WHY THE SHADDS, PETE? HURT YOUR EYES?

NO, UH, MINOR INFECTION! BUT I NEED SOME ADVICE, ROBBIE!

I'VE DEVELOPED AN INTEREST IN THE KIDNAPPINGS OF GORDON, LANSKY AND GOLDIN--AND THE ATTACK ON THE MAYOR!



BUT HOW DO YOU INVESTIGATE A CASE LIKE THAT? WHERE DO YOU START?

YOU THINK THEY'RE TIED TOGETHER, HUH? WELL, ANY JOURNALIST WILL TELL YOU TO START BY FINDING OUT EVERYTHING YOU CAN ABOUT THE PRINCIPALS OF A CASE!



C'MON WITH ME!

EVERY BIG PAPER KEEPS UP-TO-DATE OBITUARIES ON FILE FOR BUSINESS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS!



LET'S CHECK OUT YOUR KIDNAP VICTIMS!

HERE! HERE'S ONE! I'LL DIG OUT THE OTHERS WHILE YOU READ!



SURE!

NO! WAIT! THIS COULD BE WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR!



IN ONE GLANCE AT ONE FILE?

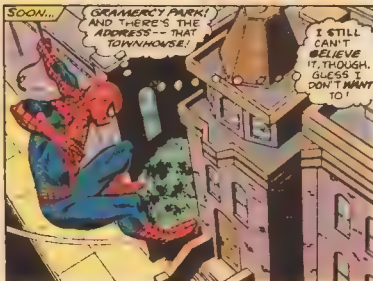


THANKS, ROBBIE! THANKS A LOT! SEE YA SOON!

YEAH, RIGHT ANYTIME, PETE!

I HOPE!

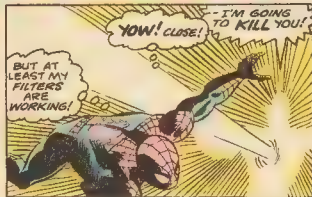
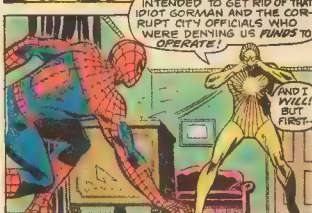
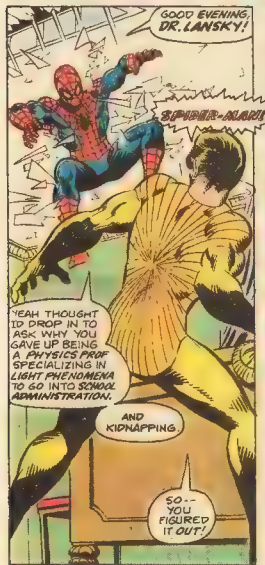
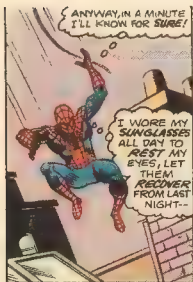
AND UH, TAKE CARE OF THOSE EYES!

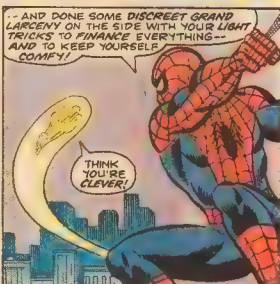
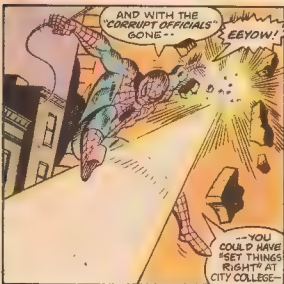
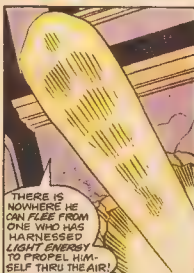
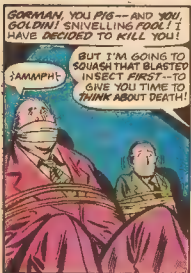
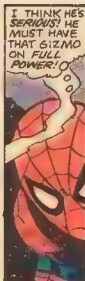
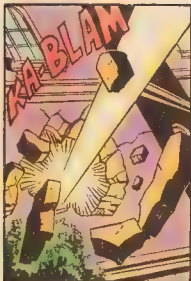


SOON...

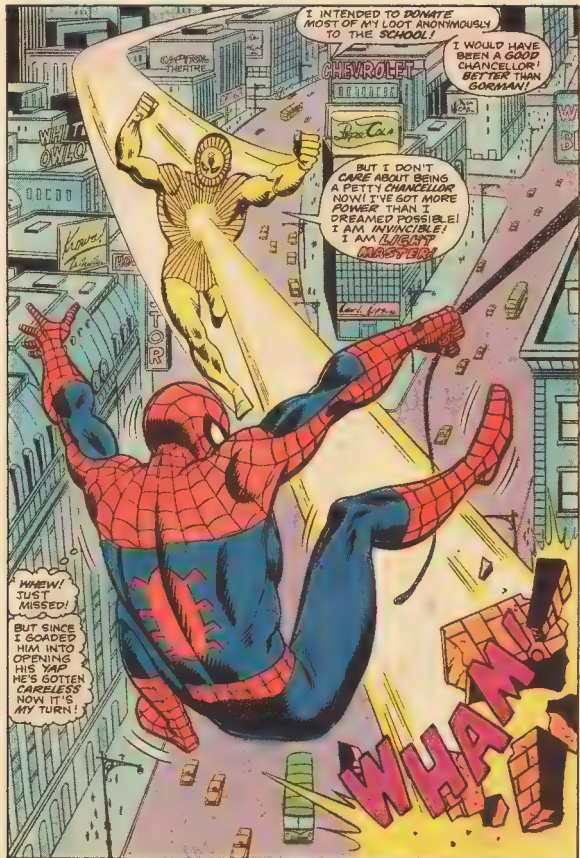
GRAMERCY PARK! AND THERE'S THE ADDRESS-- THAT TOWNHOUSE!

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT, THOUGH. GUESS I DON'T WANT TO!









I INTENDED TO DONATE  
MOST OF MY LOOT ANONYMOUSLY  
TO THE SCHOOL!

I WOULD HAVE  
BEEN A GOOD  
CHANCELLOR!  
BETTER THAN  
GORMAN!

BUT I DON'T  
CARE ABOUT BEING  
A PETTY CHANCELLOR  
NOW! I'VE GOT MORE  
POWER THAN I  
DREAMED POSSIBLE!  
I AM INVINCIBLE!  
I AM **LIGHT  
MASTER!**

WHEW!  
JUST  
MISSED!

BUT SINCE  
I GOADED  
HIM INTO  
OPENING  
HIS YAP  
HE'S GOTTEN  
CARELESS  
NOW IT'S  
MY TURN!

**WHAM!**

# OF VAINGLORIOUS VAMPIRES, VANQUISHED VILLAINS, AND VALANT VICTORS!

## STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hi, gang! It's hard to believe a whole year has zipped by since I wrote my last, eminently forgettable Thanksgiving poem on this very page. I was tempted to try another synecopated sonnet this time, but I figured I'd rather just rap with you instead. Anyway, speaking of Thanksgiving, I wonder how many of you remember one of the prime goals we set for ourselves here at Marvel more than a decade ago. I recall writing that our greatest ambition was to change the image of so-called "comicbooks"—to take them from the exclusive domain of the bubble-gum brigade and expand our audience to include readers right up to college age—and beyond. Well, the rest of the media felt we'd never make it, while our competitors just laughed at us. No one thought we had a ghost of a chance to grab a significant share of adult readership. But here in the Betty Bullpen we were probably too naive to realize how impossible it was. So, we just kept on writing and illustrating the very best stories we could, combining a university-level vocabulary with mature concepts in plotting and characterization, together with adult premises and rationalizations. And, most important of all, we never let ourselves forget that, above all else, Marvel Comics are meant to be *fun*! No matter how scholarly, no matter how profound, no matter how philosophically or socially relevant our yarns might be, their primary purpose was (and still is) to *entertain* you. Finally, we vowed never to "write down" to you; we'd only present stories that we ourselves enjoyed; tales we ourselves would be anxious to read. So you see, we weren't merely producing pabulum

for a bunch of nameless, faceless kids—we were creating far-out, fantastic epics for ourselves, and for countless thousands of our hip, heroic readers who share the same love of fantasy and excitement as we do. And, y'know something? It worked! We succeeded beyond our own wildest expectations! Today, a full 50% of our readership is from 15 to 25 years of age! Today, newspapers, radio, and TV are enthusiastically aware of us, giving us more media coverage than almost any other publications! Today, comicbook conventions are among the biggest crowd-pulling events in virtually every major city in the U.S.—and overseas as well! And there's more! One of the world's largest book publishers, Simon & Schuster, has created virtually an entire line of Marvel hardcover editions, while Grosset and Dunlap will soon be presenting another unique line of Marvel creations! Each week new invitations cross my desk, requests to speak about Marvel Comics at colleges and universities from Maine to Mexico! In short, our dreams have come true: comics have come of age! And we'll never forget, not for one single second, that we owe it all to you! So now, during this festive Thanksgiving season, nothing could be more appropriate than for all of us in the Marvel Bullpen to extend to each and every one of you our deepest, most heartfelt thanks for making it all possible; for making this truly—The Marvel Age of Comics!

Excelsior!

*Stan*

ITEM! Over the last few months we've been making periodic mention of a new periodical we were planning, called **WHAT IF...?** Well, the planning is over and the real thing is here! At last we can finally tell you just exactly what **WHAT IF...?** is! Actually, it's the culmination of a lot of things you readers have suggested to us, and a lot of things Bullpeners have often talked about over lunch or at a party, whenever the standard shop talk ("What new villain are you having Ghost Rider meet after he finishes off the Cosmic Carburator?") begins to get wilder and more speculative. Things like "Gen, what would have happened if that buzz-bomb which killed Bucky and sent Capt. America into suspended animation had never exploded?" or "What if the Hulk had always had Bruce Banner's brain?" Fun things like that which are fascinating to think about, but could never really be done without changing most of Marvel's Madcap history. Then, Rescally ROY THOMAS, who has a knack for taking the difficult or the improbable and turning

them into successful comics (Like I'll instance, CONAN or THE INVADERS), suddenly presented us with a format where virtually anything we wanted to do *would* be possible! How? Well, that you'll find out when you see what Roy, talented new penciler from Canada way, JIM CRAIG, and eminent embellisher PABLO MARCOS have done with the novel notion, **WHAT IF... SPIDER-MAN HAD JOINED THE FANTASTIC FOUR?** This first issue picks up on an incident from **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1** where Spidey, attempted to join the FF (and changed his mind) and builds it into one of the most unexpected and entertaining epics ever. Naturally, something like this is too big to be contained in one average-size comic. So we've made **WHAT IF...?** a double-length king-size book just like our awesome annuals, only instead of being a mere once-a-year blockbuster, **WHAT IF...?** is going to be exploding on the newsstand every other month. Each and every issue will have an exciting new concept (such as those we mentioned about

Capt. America and the Hulk) and an exciting new writer/artist combo to bring it all alive for you. In fact, we're set to be flooded with tales of "what if" suggestions, once everyone gets a look at what we're doing. If we're not careful, **WHAT IF...?** could turn into the biggest thing since the no-prize!

ITEM! Congratulations to Marvelous MARY and Meticulous MICHELE WOLFMAN, who recently announced that they're expecting a baby (but there is absolutely no truth to the rumor that Marv intends to hold another name-the-child contest such as he's doing with the Lord of Vampire's off-spring in **TOMB OF DRACULA**!)

ITEM! Jubilation fills the hallowed halls of Marvel World just came in that our Sultans of Softball are currently tied for first place in their division of the Publisher's Softball League. Said jubilation is sorely needed as in a *non-league* exhibition game with a certain Distinguished Competitor, the Bullpeners somehow managed to come in second. A rematch has been talked about, but next time we're making certain that their guy with the big red 'S' on his chest doesn't get in the game!

ITEM! Two more goodies coming your way this month, friends... **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #32**, featuring the most surprising superhero of them all, **SPIDER-WOMAN** (And if you think you can guess what this one is like, we're betting you're wrong)... And finally there's our gala **HOLIDAY GRAB-BAG TREASURY EDITION**, which features just about all of our coveting characters in some of their best stories from the past and in specially prepared all new material as well just to truly make the season bright!



ITEM! Almost no space left, so we'll quickly say "hi" to Devastating DAVIDA DALE, recent addition to our art production staff, Dimply DIANE RODRIGO, who assists Nifty NANCY MURPHY in processing your subscriptions, Jubilant JOHN ROMITA JR., now doing pulse-pounding pencilling on some covers and back-up stories, and Handy ANDY YANCHUS, newly chosen Chiefstain of our capricious Color Department! And that's about it, except to say good-bye... and be good to yourselves!



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Consulting Editors

JOHN ROMITA  
Art Director

JOHN VERPOORTEN  
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IRVING FORBUSH  
Marshmallow-Toaster

# THE INCREDIBLE HULK AND THE GREEN THUMB

THE HULK HAS BEEN "BREFRIENDED" BY "COUSIN BETSY, THE PLANT LADY."

COUSIN BETSY

THE PLANT LADY

NOW, NOW, DEAR GREEN THING! I'M ONLY TOO HAPPY TO TAKE YOU IN WITH ALL MY OTHER...ER...ALL MY VEGETABLES AND PLANTS.

HULK NO REMEMBER HOW HE GOT HERE. BUT HULK HAPPY. FINALLY FIND PLACE WHERE HULK CAN FIND PEACE...AND NICE COOL SHADE PLANT TO SIT UNDER.

AH, MY BEAUTIFUL PLANTS... MY OWN LITTLE GANG. WHAT FINE SPECIMENS YOU ARE. RHODA, MARI, ARTIE--I WANT YOU TO MEET THE HULK. THAT JADE GIANT IS GOING TO JOIN US...IN OUR NEXT ROBBERY OF DIAMONDS AND OTHER PRECIOUS THINGS...WHAT A SPECIMEN--AND SO GREEN...



I WARN YOU GREEN GARGANTUA--JOIN US--OR ELSE!--THE ARTICHOKES--GO GET HIM ARTI--!!!

SEE, GREEN GOLIATH--WHEN I TALK TO MY PLANTS, THEY LISTEN!

HULK ALWAYS WIND UP SAME--DOUBLE-CROSSED--FIRST BY PUNY HUMANS...NOW BY PUNY PLANT...NOW HULK MAD!



FORGET THE DIAMONDS... SAVE THE DELICIOUS HOSTESS\* FRUIT PIES.

...ALL OF THEM... APPLE, CHERRY, LEMON...

...WITH THE REAL FRUIT FILLING AND THE LIGHT, TENDER CRUST.

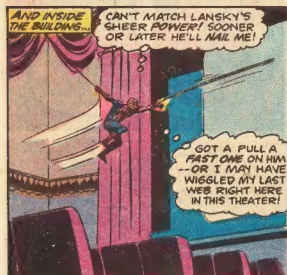


A CRIMINAL GANG OF PLANTS THAT LOVE JUICY HOSTESS FRUIT PIES!!! WHAT NEXT?

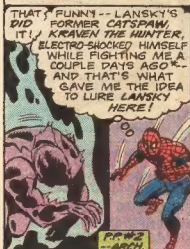
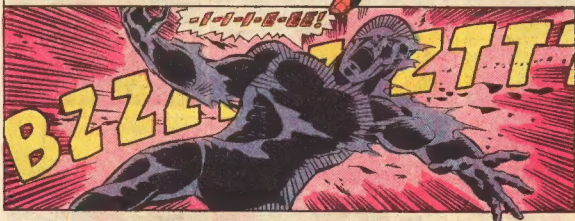
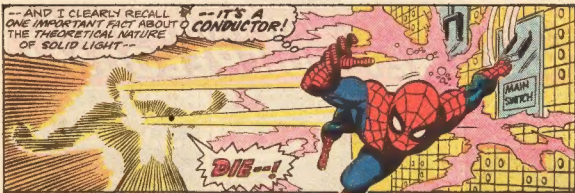
NEXT, HULK GO FIND PEACE IN CITY...FAR AWAY FROM GREEN THINGS!

YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS\* FRUIT PIES!









NEXT ISSUE:

THE VULTURE!

